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COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1993/L.46

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

Establishment of the Group of Experts on Development

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 7 of the draft resolution contained in document E/1993/L.46, the Economic and Social Council would:

"Decide to establish a Group of Experts on Development to replace the Committee for Development Planning (para. 1);

"Request the Secretary-General to nominate up to forty experts who would serve in their personal capacity and encompass a broad range of expertise, taking into account the need to ensure balanced representation (para. 2);

...

"Recommend further that the Secretary-General draw upon the Group of Experts on Development to establish panels of up to ten experts each, with relevant expertise, in consultation with the chairman of the requesting body, to prepare the reports requested (para. 4);

...

"Further decide that one of the panels should be a standing panel which would meet, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/206, to, inter alia, undertake every three years a general review of the list of low-income countries, with a view to identifying which of those countries should qualify for inclusion in, or should be graduated from, the list of

least developed countries and to present this review to the General Assembly through the Council; to consider further improvements in the criteria for identifying the least developed among the developing countries; and to make recommendations for the inclusion of countries in the list of least developed countries, provided that the countries concerned have signified their consent (para. 7)."

2. A provision in the amount of $327,400 has been made under section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to finance the activities of the Committee for Development Planning.

3. It is not possible to estimate the requirements for the activities of the Group of Experts on Development due to the fact that the programme of its activities and the number and duration of the meetings of panels of experts during the biennium 1994-1995 are unknown at this stage. Therefore, should the Council decide to replace the Committee for Development Planning by the Group of Experts on Development, it would be the Secretary-General's intention to utilize the provision included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the Committee for Development Planning ($327,400) to finance the requirements of the Group of Experts during the biennium 1994-1995. Should, in the course of the biennium, that provision prove to be insufficient for the purpose, any additional costs over and above that provision would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the final budget performance report for the biennium 1994-1995.